

LIAISON OFFICER

by Sister M. C. Stanley

Since the 1st June, 1967 I have been working as a Liaison Officer with the Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs in Queensland. For the first two and a half years I was stationed at the Government community of Woorabinda which is 109 miles west of Rockhampton. Then last October I was transferred to work in the same capacity at our Head Office in Brisbane.



This work entails ordinary office duties and general welfare activities. Also there is much interviewing—listening, advising, referring and endeavouring to guide and, above all, being a true and understanding friend to those who come seeking help. Often it's not the material things that the people come for but to find a friend who will just sit and listen. Of course, there are families who may need quite a lot of help and advice, and these are followed up with home visits. In these visits to people's homes one must treat them with

respect and make them feel they are responsible citizens who must stand up and shoulder their responsibilities.

After living in a flat for some months I began to think about getting a house. So now I have a home to run and look after and I am privileged to share my home with six girls. These girls are of Aboriginal descent and have come to Brisbane to further their education. They have attained their Junior pass and have been granted a Commonwealth Study Grant to attend one of several business colleges. They are paid a living away from home allowance but have to find their own accommodation. This is where I felt I could do something practical by providing a Christian home for such young people. A place where they can live happily together within the shelter of a Christian environment. I may not be able to provide a grand house but at least it is a home where love and understanding abides and where I can be their friend and guide.

The world at large can be an evil trap to any young, charming and attractive girl, irrespective of colour or creed. There are so many things beckoning to them and this is where I feel we, the Church at work in the world, must be aware of the needs of our youth and do something really practical to help them. Obtaining the house is a personal venture of faith so that at least six Aboriginal girls at a time can live together and share the security and harmony of a Christian home life.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

The Church Army in Australia like other Church bodies, is facing up to changing needs in a changing world. For a long period the Church Army has conducted Parish Missions and has been engaged



in other widespread evangelistic and social service activities which, because of their very nature, have forged a close link with so many people and other bodies. However, the income to support these activities has been considerably reduced in recent years as a result of which the Church Army is faced with the urgent challenge of new tasks but without the necessary increase in resources with which to tackle them. Nevertheless, the Church Army is keen to meet this challenge of the changing needs in a changing world, and can see great opportunities of service in developing new fields, especially in social work among young people, but these opportunities can only be followed up if the necessary money is available. This is the time when all former and new friends (both parishes and individuals) can join in with those who have been contributing to our funds for so many years and come to the financial assistance of the Church Army.

With its new Training College at Belrose, the Church Army has excellent facilities available for the training of the new Candidates, but finance is required to make the best use of these facilities in providing a training programme which is a strategic one spiritually and educationally.

As Chairman of the Finance Committee I entreat you to support the Church Army's 36th Birthday Appeal to the very best of your ability. May we look forward to your fellowship with us in this Appeal?

RICHARD H. BOYT.

PLEASE SPEED YOUR GIFT TO US IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE

ON OUR 36th BIRTHDAY WE APPEAL FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT AND HELP

In making our usual Birthday Appeal we would express our gratitude for the wonderfully generous support we have received over the years from individuals, parishes and dioceses. As a voluntary society the Church Army could not continue without this support.

In making this 36th Birthday Appeal we must place before our supporters our present financial situation and other relevant information. A review of our income over the last five years reveals that the income from the main sources of voluntary giving, i.e. subscriptions and donations from individuals, donations and allocations from parishes and dioceses and the response to Birthday and Christmas Appeals, has fallen by over \$5,000 p.a. Somehow we must make good this drop in income and try to achieve a steady increase in order to meet constantly rising costs and also to enable us to launch new evangelistic and social work which is being planned. We also face increased costs in bringing an additional staff member on to our strength at the Training College, but this is a very important step in the development of our training programme so the cost must somehow be met.

There are many ways in which we could be greatly helped with our financial problems, but we will mention two ways here in which many of our supporters could probably assist us. Firstly, could you find new subscribers for us from among your relatives, friends and church members? On the back page you will find an enrolment form. Will you please do everything possible to enroll new subscribers and so help and encourage us in the work of Evangelism to which God has called us. The second way of helping refers to Sydney subscribers only. We are greatly in need of a Church Army Auxiliary here in Sydney to support the work generally and particularly to support the vital work of the Training College. Will any Sydney friends who feel they could help in this way please get in touch immediately with the Federal Secretary.

NEWS and NOTES . . .

APPRECIATION : We are very grateful indeed for the amount of \$104, plus a parcel of linen, sent in by a number of our friends in response to the mention in the last Pioneer of our need of bed linen and general household linen for the Training College. These gifts and also the packets of used stamps and tea coupons have been a great help to us.

We would also express our warmest thanks for the subscriptions and donations received from many friends for general purposes and for which it was indicated that receipts were not required.

LEGACIES : Another cause for thanksgiving is the legacies we receive from time to time. In the present financial year we have received, or have been notified of legacies, from the estates of the late—

Mrs. Hillyard, Camden, N.S.W.; Miss Hudson, Montrose, Victoria; Miss Anderson, South Yarra, Victoria; Miss E. A. Raine, Sydney, N.S.W.; Miss Tubman, Gosford, N.S.W.; Mrs. Howard, Brisbane, Queensland and Miss Dight, Armidale, N.S.W.

We commend to our supporters the idea of remembering the Church Army in their Wills and the following wording can be used as a clause or codicil:—

"I give to the Church Army in Australia . . . (here insert the sum of money or the description of the houses, land, stock, shares, mortgage, debt or other property intended to be given) . . . and I declare that the receipt of the Honorary Treasurer for the time being or other proper officer of the Church Army shall be a sufficient discharge for the same."

WORKER-EVANGELIST : An interesting new development has been pioneered by Captain Arthur Malcolm to help him to know, and minister more effectively to, the men on the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Reserve. The Reserve is in the Nowa Nowa parish of which he is in charge. Captain Malcolm now works with the men in one or other of the tasks such as farm, road or timber work for two days a week. He receives the same rate of pay as they do and he passes this on to the Diocese for the development of the Church's work at Lake Tyers. He is also seeking to develop an interest in recreational activities at the Reserve on Saturday mornings.

ARCHBISHOP OF YORK :

It was a great pleasure to welcome the Archbishop to our Federal Office and Training College one afternoon during his recent visit to Sydney. The Archbishop of York is the President of the English Church Army and is keenly interested in the world-wide activities of our Society.



LOOKING BACK . . .

by Sister E. Campbell

Never look back, I was taught as a child. It's the present and future that matter. But today I am looking back to make an assessment of the past.



Some twenty years ago I felt the call to full time service within the Church. I say within the Church rather than to full time Christian service, because I believe that immediately one becomes conscious of the sacrifice that Jesus Christ made for them, and puts their trust in Him as Lord and Master of their life, then life becomes one of full time Christian service and I had done this several years before.

The Church Army opened up for me as an avenue of service through close contact with a Church Army Sister working in my home parish of Wagga. After many conversations, much thought and prayer and, on my part, much pulling against the will of God, I somehow found myself filling in an application form. Not long after that I was on a train to Newcastle and the Training College which was then in that city. When I got there I began to wonder—"how can God use me?" But I had promised to trust Him, so it was 'into the fray.'

TRAINING BEGINS

I was sent for preliminary training to a Girls' Home staffed by Church Army Sisters, to spend some happy and some not so happy hours, among about twenty-five youngsters needing love and attention. Having come from a large family with all the love we needed, I found it almost impossible to believe the facts about the background of

these lassies, and I am quite sure that without my knowledge of Christ's love and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I would never have survived the emotional stress of this probation period.

Then came College life. Not being a particularly brilliant scholar I was concerned about the outcome of this period of my training, but here the love of Jesus Christ shone through those in charge and so helped me through. After many ups and downs I found myself, as my Commissioning Papers put it—"Of good character and sufficiently versed in Holy Scripture . . .", to be Commissioned as a Church Army Officer.

INTO ACTION

Then my training really began! I was sent to join the staff of an Adelaide parish. I didn't realise so much work could be done or so many hours of activity spent, in one quarter of a square mile, for this was the extent of the parish.

The work entailed the usual parochial duties plus some very interesting extra-parochial jobs. A social service mission was attached to the parish church and again I had my eyes opened to the way some folk had to live. Working among prisoners' wives and children I was appalled to see the living conditions of some of these people. I thank God that in some small way we were able to give relief in the Lord's name. Some very humorous and some very sobering moments were experienced in this first appointment. I left that parish feeling I had, due to my inexperience, left a lot undone.

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THE CHURCH ARMY IN AUSTRALIA

P.O. Box 107, French's Forest,
N.S.W. 2086

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HON. WARDEN : The Rev. D. G. Livingstone, Th.Schol.

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P.O. Box 784, Newcastle, N.S.W. 2300
Telephone 2-3160

MANAGER : Captain N. A. R. Payne, C.A.

WHERE WE SERVE . . .

FEDERAL OFFICE

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Sister E. N. Bacon (Staff Sister and Candidates' Secretary).

Captain D. O. Quayle (Staff Captain).

TRAINING COLLEGE

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Sister E. Campbell (Housekeeper).

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Captain G. Frizzell, Director, Youth Drop-In Centre, Wollongong, N.S.W.

"Burgman House" Hostel, Newcastle, N.S.W.
Mrs. Blunden and staff.

Sister N. J. Bridges, Assistant Matron, Farr House, Springfield, S.A.

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Sister M. C. Stanley, Brisbane, Queensland.

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Captain D. O. Quayle, Alcan Pty. Ltd., Granville, N.S.W.

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The Rev. J. S. Cowland and Mrs. Cowland, The Rev. A. W. Batley and Mrs. Batley, Captain C. Fisk and Mrs. Fisk, Sister G. A. Phillpot, Sister M. Pritchard.

STUDENTS IN TRAINING

AUSTRALIA: Cadets S. Lister, J. McKnight, W. A. Darnley, K. A. Donaldson.

NEW ZEALAND: Student Sister E. Rentoul; Cadets A. Church and P. Allfrey.